

ABSTRACT

Provided is a bulk paper feeding device with an intermediate conveyor comprising a carrier capable of carrying a large quantity of paper, a paper feeding mechanism for picking up and feeding one sheet at a time of the paper from the carrier, and an intermediate conveyor for transporting a sheet of paper fed from the feeding mechanism to the main paper feeding table of the paper feeder on the body of the image forming device or to the vicinity of a paper feeding port that faces the main paper feeding means of the paper feeder. ~~The intermediate conveyor comprises paper transport means for transporting paper that has been fed from the paper feeding mechanism, disposed in a plurality of intervals from upstream to downstream along the intermediate transport path thereof; paper detecting means for detecting at least one edge from among the leading and trailing edges of the paper being transported, disposed in a plurality at intervals from upstream to downstream along the intermediate transport path; a pair of guiding means for guiding the paper that is transported by the paper transport means to the main feeding table or to the vicinity of the paper feeding port; and a chassis for accommodating the paper transport means and the pair of guiding means. Disposed on the main feeding table is at least one of paper length detecting means for detecting paper length, and paper presence detecting means for detecting the presence or absence of paper on the main feeding table; and at least one of the paper length detecting means and the paper presence detecting means comprises detecting means which is caused to switch on/off signals thereof by a closing and opening operation. A shutter mechanism for selectively shielding at least the paper detecting means from among the paper length detecting means and the paper detecting means is provided to the intermediate conveyor.~~